

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-26 are pending in the subject application and have been examined. Claims 1-7, 12, and 21 stand rejected. Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 8-11, 13-20 and 22 are allowed, and that claims 1-4, 6, and 7 would be allowed if claim 1 is rewritten to overcome certain 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 21 have been amended; and new claims 23-26 have been added. Support for the claim amendments and the new claims can be found throughout the specification. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 5, 12 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In addition, claims 1-4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, and 7 based upon 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Examiner asserts that the limitation "the further additive" in claim 1 lacks antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to change this limitation to "the further component Y". Applicants submit that "the further component Y" has sufficient antecedent basis in claim 1, and thus claim 1 and all its dependent claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application No. 09/931,268**

In rejecting claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner asserts that the limitation of obtaining a measurement standard or measurement curve, as set forth in these claims, implies that the measurement standard or measurement curve exists before an electroanalytical measurement cycle is executed as recited in claims 1 and 8. The Examiner further asserts that claims 5 and 12 are incompatible with their respective claims 1 and 8, because claims 5 and 12 require the making of a known measurement standard or measurement curve as a by-product of a plurality of measuring cycles while claims 1 and 8 require the known measurement standard or measurement curve to exist before a measuring cycle or measurement curve has been executed.

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to clarify that the measurement standard or measurement curve is obtained prior to a comparison of results of the electroanalytical measurement cycle with the measurement cycle or measurement curve. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 12 are consistent with their independent claims 1 and 8, since the order in which the measurement standard and measurement curve are obtained is clearly set forth. This technique is further supported by the specification (e.g., see page 13, line 13, to page 14, line 6), which sets forth an example in which a result of an electroanalytical measurement cycle is compared to data representing a graph of known standard solutions that have been previously subjected to the electroanalytical measurement cycle.

The Examiner further asserts that claims 5 and 12 fail to comply with the enablement requirement, under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because of the limitation that the standardized solution comprises a virgin makeup solution that is saturated with both the additive

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application No. 09/931,268**

X and further component Y (claim 5) or both the enhancer and suppressor (claim 12). The Examiner asserts that, since the specification explains that saturating the virgin makeup solution with a particular bath component results in the negation of that component on subsequent electroanalytical measurements, saturation of the virgin makeup solution with a bath component of interest (i.e., additive X for claim 5, and suppressor for claim 12) would render it impossible to measure the concentrations of this bath component. Claims 5 and 12 are clearly enabled by the specification (see for example , page 14, lines 7-12), and thus, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 5 and 12 have been amended to recite that the standardized solution comprises a virgin makeup solution that is saturated with further component Y (claim 5) or the enhancer (claim 12). Applicants submit that this adequately addresses the Examiner's concern with respect to these claims in that there is no longer a recitation that additive X (regarding claim 5) or the suppressor (regarding claim 12) is saturated in the virgin makeup solution. Claims 5 and 12 clearly meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and as such, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections of these claims.

In rejecting claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner asserts that the limitation of the standardized solution comprising virgin makeup solution that is saturated with both the first and second bath additives is not enabled by the specification for the same reasons as noted above for similar limitations in original claims 5 and 12. In particular, the Examiner asserts that, by saturating the virgin makeup solution with the first bath additive, it is not

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application No. 09/931,268**

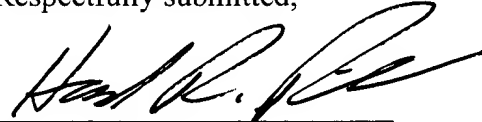
possible, based upon the disclosure in the specification, to measure the concentration of the first bath additive in the electrochemical bath extracted for measurement. For the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 5 and 12 this rejection is also respectfully traversed.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 21 has been amended such that the limitation at issue is now a standardized solution comprising virgin makeup solution that is saturated with the second bath additive. Applicants submit that claim 21 clearly meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of this claim.

Applicants submit that the subject matter of new claims 23-26, directed to chemical management systems and methods of determining the concentration of an additive X in a sample, is not taught nor rendered obvious by any of the cited references of record.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to find claims 1-26 to be in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in an attempt to resolve any remaining issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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